



DELEGATION OF FRANCE/SPAIN

COMMUNITY OF PREDICADOUS – SAINT GREGOIRE

Sr. Marie-Jolène is in our community of Predicadous from January 31, 2010, and we are very happy for this. The Christian community, our neighbours, friends and even the mail-woman have welcomed her very rapidly....

On April 5, she left for her country, Haiti, where she will stay for two months, She had been away from her family for five years and the terrible earthquake had delayed her departure. She came back on June 5, at the end of her stay.

After her return, the mealtimes have become a moments of sharing more than ever, because our questions are many and we desire to be in communion with her. She has been able to see closer the poverty and suffering of her people. (Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world), a suffering accentuated by the earthquake in the month of January. With astonishment, we discover a people wounded by injustices, by many years at the mercy of profiteer tyrants, a people who, despite all this, has kept an intact and fervent faith.

On the day after her return, we went for the evening Eucharistic celebration that every week gathers a small group of Christians, who are very faithful to this appointment. We gather around a table, like the apostles at the last supper with Jesus, and this creates a true conviviality. When we reached the church, Sr. Marie-Jolène was welcomed by our parish priest and by the faithful with joy and affection. We felt deeply moved, because they “adopted” the sister even before they knew her.

We took with us a basket containing sweet potatoes, corn flour and some coco cookies. As symbol of a suffering people, we put the basket on the table, near the chalice. After the celebration, we shared the cookies.

Life at Predicadous starts again its course. Our compassion plucks up the suffering of Sr. Marie-Jolène: the memory of her people. Today we shall try to see how to integrate this appeal with our community project.

Sr. Philippe and Sr. Geneviève

DELEGATION OF THE FRONTIERS

LIFE IN THE CENTRE OF KABUL: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHILDREN

On June 1, we celebrated the International Day of Children in the PBK Centre. We always celebrate this day with great fervour and zeal. The weather was favourable: it was neither too hot nor too cold.

The parents by now are used to participate in this programme at the Centre. They are happy and always take 5 or 6 other children with them, knowing that we welcome them with heartfelt generosity. The preparation for this beautiful event starts two months before, because the children in the Centre have problems of locution, memory and concentration and, therefore, they need more time for the preparation. All the children from each class prepared several performances: songs, dances, dramas, skits, games, general culture and two Italian dances, that of water and that of air.

On that day, the children came to the Centre as usual and took active part in the preparation of the programme, such as inflating the balloons, arranging the exhibition in their respective classes, setting the chairs in order for the guests. They were somehow agitated, but felt proud of being able to do something. The programme started at 14, 30.

Almost all the guests were punctual. They were the Jesuits, P. Stan, P. Jimmy and P. Maria Joseph, Mrs. Parveen Azimi, from the Ministry of Education, some members of the Parents Association

in the ANAD (an Afghani Association for dumb/deaf children), who work for the mentally retarded children. The Little Sisters of Charles De Foucauld and the Sisters of Mother Theresa could not be present because of their commitments. Doctor Qasim Taj, who comes regularly to see the children, this time, was not able to honour us with his presence.

A member of the Parents Association spoke to the parents about the role of educating the mentally retarded children. Two mothers expressed their satisfaction and gratitude for the progress of their children from the day they secured their admission into the PBK Centre.

After the programme, the children received their prizes and we served delicious refreshments to all the participants. Thanking God, everything came to a happy conclusion. *The community of Kabul*

DELEGATION OF NIGERIA

Meeting of the Juniors, June 3 – 6, 2010

IBADAN: The days of June 5 – 6, were a time of thanksgiving in the life of the juniors, a time of fraternal meeting and exchange of experiences.

The theme of the meeting was: **PRAYER AND APOSTOLATE.**

We arrived in Ibadan on June 3. We met in the evening and our Delegate, Sr. M. Margaret Hussain, welcomed us and handed over to us the programme of the meeting.

The following day, we went to the Nuns of the Adoration, in Ilorin, a Western State of Nigeria. In the monastery we met women full of enthusiasm who offered us a warm welcome. The Superior, Sr. Rosemary, led us in the exploration of Ilorin. We met new persons, visited the Bishop's House, went to see the sisters of the Eucharistic Heart and then to the University. At the end of this excursion, we shared our experiences.

We dedicated the following day, June 5, to a reflection on community life. It was a time of growth, which brought to light important points through discussions, questions and answers..

We read the project of life on Prayer and Apostolate. Sr. M. Margaret, with her rich experience, explained everything in details and the reciprocal sharing of experiences made us feel further enlightened. Our reflection went on in the chapel in a personal dialogue with our Lord!

In the afternoon, we followed with interest the deep reflection on Apostolate and Prayer that our Dominican Confrere, Father Anthony Akinwale, shared with us, proving that they are inseparable. He highlighted the point that it is impossible to exercise any apostolate without prayer, because in prayer we breathe Christ. Before going to the mission, we need to enter a deep relation and communion with Christ, who is the author, the beginning and the end of every thing.

We went back to our communities fully satisfied, with increased vigour and a deep gratitude towards our Delegate and the entire Congregation (See photos in www.domenicanecaterina.org). Let us praise the Lord!!! *Sr. M. Francisca, Sr. M. Ijeoma, Sr. M. Angela, Sr. M. Sylvia, Sr. M. Jacqueline, Sr. M. Ngozi, Sr. M. Stella e Sr. M. Mercy*

CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST

“I will send you another advocate who will be always with you (John 14, 16). With this verse, we thank the Lord for granting us the joy of living a Pentecost flooded with the Spirit of God. We prepared ourselves with a Novena in honour of the Holy Spirit and celebrated His coming in our chapel together with a beautiful group of parishioners. During the homily, Father Isaiah SDB exhorted us to let the Spirit use us as He wants and to ask Him an abundance of His gifts and respective fruit. The prayers of the faithful, expressed in different local languages, made us imagine the experience of the apostles, and with them we elevated our prayer to God our Father..

After Mass each of us extracted a gift of the Holy Spirit and was filled with joy in getting just the expected gift, which she had asked in prayer. The novices visited the patients and the personnel in our hospital, taking to them the gifts of the Holy Spirit and animating a beautiful recreation with songs and dances.

Each of us ended the day asking, “Will the Lord find in my heart a fertile soil to bear fruit? Am I ready to accompany these gifts with my daily prayer, sacrifice and work? Am I ready to share these gifts with those who surround me?”

We must keep in mind that we are responsible of these gifts, however, without living in fear, because the Spirit is with us, assists and blesses our efforts in sharing the gifts with our brothers. *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

THE RENEWAL OF VOWS

On Saturday, June 13, 2010, during the Eucharistic celebration in our Chapel, our Sr. M. Stella Precious Ekpunobi and Sr. M. Mercy Ekeh renewed their vows for one year. About one hundred parishioners were present. During the homily, reflecting on the Gospel of the day, (Luke 7, 36 – 8: 1 – 3), the Salesian Priest spoke of Jesus travelling from city to city, from village to village, healing, preaching and proclaiming the Good News of God’s Kingdom, together with the apostles and some women. According to him, the women who worked and assisted our Lord in his preaching and in his ministry of charity represent today’s women religious when, with the sacrifice of their life and in their various apostolic activities (assistance to the sick, teaching, pastoral and social work) they evangelise our wounded humanity.

The sisters, placing their hands on those of the Delegate, with deep emotion, emitted their vow of obedience to God, using the expression of our Constitutions. In deep silence, we listened to the promise of a total surrender to God and the service to humanity. Their act spurred us, as well as the married persons, to renew our respective commitments, knowing that the Lord is always at our side in our work and that we are collaborators in his saving mission. The human fear of not being able to persevere, of not being faithful to our commitment disappears all together. The fidelity of Christ lasts forever and it is the power of the religious, men and women.

This celebration gathered the sisters of Mafoluku and Ibadan Communities in fraternal union and joy.

VOCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

One with the Church, the Archdiocese of Ibadan celebrated the conclusion of the Priestly Year. It organised vocational meetings for all the religious congregations and for all the faithful.

The celebration aimed at creating an increased awareness in the youths desirous of embracing celibacy and religious life. We novices participated in it actively. We wished to make the people feel the presence of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena. We distributed leaflets containing a concise but deep history of our Mother Foundress, Géline Fabre, our presence in various parts of the world, our daily life, the various apostolic activities that we carry on, our E-mail address and phone numbers. We distributed also a graphic illustrating with photos our mission in the world, our way of praying, sisters in the Dominican habit, the recreation, our farm work and other aspects of our life.

During our vocational proposal in the stadium, we experienced the life of Jesus according to the Gospel of Mark 6:34, a Jesus who looks at the crowd, with compassion, as at a flock without shepherd. We approached many youths needful of guidance in their vocational choices. We tried to answer their questions. Several youths expressed the desire of going deeper into our ideal of life. We invited them to keep on contacting us.

This experience helped us to go back to the beginning of our journey, of our personal history, to the way we met the Dominican sisters, the deep impression they exercised in us for which we decided to share their life. We are convinced, however, that the vocation is a mystery. It is surprising the thought that God wants to involve his creatures, with their limits, in His saving mission. Before this mystery we cannot but sing the praise of God with the verses of Psalm 139, 13 - 1 “ *You created my inner self; knit me together in my mother’s womb. For so many marvels I thank you: a wonder am I, and all your works are wonders; you know me through and through*”.

We wish all our Priests to be blessed with a fruitful ministry. We pray that all the graces the Lord has poured on them during this Priestly year may sanctify them and the whole Church.

The novices

PROVINCE OF PAKISTAN

- Glad tidings:

On May 31, 2010, the first year novices started the phase of the second year noviciate, while on June 14, a postulant started her noviciate and three aspirants started their postulancy. We give to them the fraternal wish of a joyful perseverance in the following of Christ. We pray that He may offer an abundance of light and the guidance of His Spirit to them and to their formators.

- The functions and commemorative manifestations of the 50th anniversary of the Diocese are going on in various centres of the Diocese. This offers to our memory an occasion to remember and to live again many past events, to re-discover through old photos and writings many faces of Bishops, Fathers, sisters and laypersons who contributed a lot to the life of the diocese. In the light of memory, the thought perceives better the mysterious thread of the divine action that guides events and persons. Thus, our thanksgiving and praise flow spontaneously from our hearts.

- In the Sacred Heart School, Faisalabad, an "ICT Training Workshop was held, guided by "YES" (Youth Engagement Service) Network of Pakistan". This organisation, in collaboration with the Catholic Board of Education of the Lahore Diocese, aims at forming and involving the youths in the use of the modern means of communication, especially in schools.... The teachers, the sisters and novices participated in it.

The heat continues to be merciless with 49/50 degrees of temperature. In the month of July, the monsoons should bring us rains. I say that they "should bring" because now also the natural phenomena seem to have no longer fixed rules. Anyhow, we do hope and the proverb says, "He who lives in hope, dies singing", but, of course, he dies only when the Lord will call him!

We follow with our prayer the various events in Argentina. The photos that we receive by E-mail annul the material distances and make us feel near those sisters more than ever. We wish them the fullness of the gifts of the Spirit. (See photos on the site: www.domenicanecanecaterina.org)

PROVINCE OF ITALY

NAPLES

• FAREWELL AT THE YEAR ENDING

Is it the last fatigue or the last day of authentic joy? Perhaps it is the matter of both of them. What matter do we speak of? We speak of Saturday, June 5 –in the afternoon- when the pupils of the Primary School, class 5, run by the Dominican Sisters in Arenella, Naples, offered a year ending function, which this year had the double scope of saying good-bye to the Institute and to the sister/teacher who was going to leave her teaching after forty-six years!

The function respected the Napolitan culture with the performance of sounds, songs, savours, popular voices, habits and a lot of fun.

*'De Pretore Vincenzo'*¹ (comedy of Eduardo De Filippo) between sacred and profane, with deep reflections; skits of popular Napolitan life; the famous Napolitan songs, everything was executed masterfully. Moreover, we could listen to "O sole mio", "Torna a Surriento" and other songs in

¹ Vincenzo De Pretore explains to his girlfriend Ninuccia, who menaces suicide if they do not marry, to wait for the day in which he would be able to give an easy life to her. He tells her that he is the son of a rich lord, brought up by a poor couple, yet he is compelled to steal, finishing to be a prisoner. Advised by Ninuccia, he chooses Saint Joseph as protector and since then his "work" is booming. Grateful to the Saint, whenever the theft goes well, he takes flowers and candles to his altar. However, one day he is mortally wounded by a bullet. In his delirium, the scene changes into Paradise. He sees St. Joseph who intercedes with the Lord that, moved by the history of that son with unknown father, welcomes him to himself. While dreaming, Vincent dies in the misery of First Aid, with Ninuccia at his side.

English, as well as some other skits. These ex-pupils proved born actors, expert dancers. Perhaps, they should go on acting because their gestures, ease and diction are truly worthy of praise.

Many thanks to the teachers and Sr. Lidia in particular, who felt deeply moved!

In the words of the parents, we could perceive gratitude towards the school that they were leaving and some unjustified anxiety for the new cycle of studies, which they were going to face. However, their anxiety is wholly unjustified, since for a few years they will live of... unearned income: the schools and teachers are eager to admit the pupils of the Dominican sisters.

“Dulcis in fundo”: a rich buffet for the pupils and their relatives: the lengthy spectacle had caused an expenditure of energy and, therefore, of warmth! What else could I add? Best wishes to Sr. Lidia and her pupils.

- **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

There was again joy and fun on Tuesday afternoon, June 8. The pupils of the primary school, class 4, who this year have received the Eucharist for the first time, wanted to rejoice also in the school with their companions, teachers and parents.

Each pupil had received the Holy Communion in their respective parish and in different dates, but they wanted to gather again around the altar for a more intimate, less dispersive, more recollected ceremony without the presence of the crowd. The celebrant, Father Aldo Scatola, expressed this thought masterly (an expert reporter would be required to condense in a few lines the depth of his thought and reflections): he offered many hints of meditation on the Eucharist and solicited the pupils to be constant in their journey of faith. This must not be limited to the special days as sporadic moments, during which they receive the sacrament,. He invited them to live those festive hours as occasions to lay the foundations for a healthy and lasting friendship. Don Aldo addressed words of praise to the sisters and the teachers, who were all present. In particular he congratulated with the pupils for the autonomy, the ease and seriousness with which they followed the various parts of the Holy Mass: they moved in procession towards the altar and the comment was in perfect synchrony with the offering, the prayer of the faithful and the final thanksgiving.

The skill of singing is by now a habit, but it is always surprising and moving because of the appropriate and meaningful choice.

The usual refreshment and recreation followed...

The animator tried his best to supervise their exuberance. The Parish Priest invited the pupils to remain affectionate to the school. His invitation fell on fertile soil: the teachers remain a reference point in their life. The affectionate and generous teachers (they offered the pupil a beautiful souvenir-book) will see them grow!

We conclude with the wish that the light and the pure joy of this day may accompany them always, throughout their life, a constantly luminous and sunny life, without clouds and shadows.

Maria Rosaria Roncalli

TESTIMONIES

From **VITA CATTOLICA**, weekly magazine of Turin, June 6
Extracts from an **interview of Nicola Di Mauro**:

Viviana Ballarin, a Dominican sister, president of USMI

Sr. M. Viviana Ballarin, prioress of the Dominican Sisters in Turin and president of USMI from the past two years, is a woman whose religious ascendancy immediately attracts the eyes. On hearing her speaking, you realise that her spiritual baggage is truly florid and her smile is contagious.

Sr Viviana, what is it that pushed you to wear the Dominican habit and to incarnate this ideal and discipline of life?

«I had the intuition that the project of St. Dominic's apostolic life would be for me the best way to follow the Lord. This figure in the Church, in fact, proposes a life totally dedicated to God and the brethren, in the contemplation of the truth and in the preaching, to transmit to others the fruit of contemplation. We can express the work of mercy par excellence of the Dominican life like this: "The charity of the truth and the truth of charity".

What does it mean to be a Dominican sister today?

The vocation of living my life as a Christian woman among the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena is nothing but a wonderful gift, which God has given me to realise myself, to become the one that my Creator thought of and wanted from eternity. Gradually the Dominican life helps me to define my true features and with the uniqueness, that God wanted for me. This is simply arduous and beautiful.

Due to the management roles and responsibilities, which you have assumed and still keep covering, you have the chance of visiting many parts of the world. Which part have you found to be more needful of God?

Whether I know it or not, whether I accept or deny it, man feels a deep need of God. I have found this fundamental need of God wherever I have been. Of course, the modalities with which man expresses it are multiple and diversified. The question that very often arises in me is the following: Who and how can answer this question of God? On this side, I have found patches of desert! Sometimes I have seen a pale, weak Church with scarce passion for the proclamation of the Kingdom, clinging on herself and worried for her own security more than for the good of God's people. I met there an extreme need of conversion and of God.

Do you worry for the fact that the vocations, to consecrated life as well as to the Presbyterian Ministry, are declining?

No, the number does not worry me. I worry for the presence of emptiness. Let me explain: People is thirsty and hungry of the Word, but where do we find the servants of the Word? Are we such prophets as are capable to intercept the true demand of our time, as our Founders did? Perhaps, this is the true question: What are we worrying of, we Church people? We cannot allow the following words of prophet Amos to be referred to us,: «See, the days will come, the Lord says, in which I shall send hunger to the country, not hunger of bread or thirst of water, but that of listening to the words of the Lord. Then, they will wander from a sea to the other, from the west to the east to look for the Word of the Lord, but will not find it". It is seems to be unavoidable for the women religious life to take the form of a simple, poor, at times misunderstood life, but present wherever people stand in need of hope and of life. Our challenge is that of being present in our time and of being, despite everything, the kindled light on the bushel to illumine the whole house.



EXPERIENCE AT REBIBBIA - ROME

While reading, in the F.I. of last month, the experience of the Sisters in Mafoluku, Lagos, who visited the prisoners at Ikoyi, I thought of sharing my experience. Thanks to Sr. Rita Del Grosso, a Canossian Sister who works in the area of formation, USMI, I could enter, as a volunteer, the Roman prison Rebibbia, precisely the penal institute with 400 prisoners, subdivided into six sections. I carry on my task in the second section, or in the area of religious pastoral work, under the guidance of Father Arcangelo, a Capuchin friar chaplain of the institute, and of the above-mentioned sister. I participate with them in the Sunday Holy Mass, accompany with the catechesis the prisoners desirous to receive the sacraments, and share some reflections on the Gospel with those who stay longer after Mass. However, this year, Sr. Rita has prepared a particular event, described by a prisoner in the following ways:

«On Saturday, March 28, 2010, we witnessed something unusual in the penal institute of Rebibbia. The GMG youth (World day of the youth) offered us a gift, that of bringing the cross that John Paul II handed over to the youths 25 years ago, so that they might carry it all over the world to proclaim the passion, death and

Resurrection of Jesus to all men and women

Before this, however, there had been a meeting with the three youths – Bernard, Fabians and Dorothy – who through the DVD had reviewed the world days of youths. They gave their personal testimony, explaining how their participation in the said days had brought a new light in their life. It had helped them to come out of the dark, superficial happiness which they aspired to, from the emptiness reigning in their young hearts.. They had then chosen to live, for a period of time, as volunteers in the Centre St. Laurence, Rome, and committed themselves to carry that cross wherever requested: In the parishes, in groups of suffering people...aiming at diffusing the message of Jesus who died on the cross and rose for our Redemption and Salvation.

The most moving moment, was when the three youths carried the cross on their shoulder, from the driveway to the inside of the prison. They placed the cross against a bench and we surrounded it. After a reflection by young Bernard, we wrote a short thought and put it into a small basket at the feet of the cross, taking from another basket a message from Jesus, as an answer to our request. The last moving gesture was when we were invited to put all together the cross on our shoulders and to pray the “Our Father”, knowing that we are brothers and sisters because we are children of the same Father, our God. With this prayer, we slowly moved towards the door and left the institute. Many of us were not able to hold back our tears, remembering the words of Jesus,” “Let him who wants to follow me carry his cross”.

Jesus, who said, “I was in prison and you visited me...”, this time, thanks to the tenacious will of several persons, has entered with us through the cross to take grace and consolation to our brothers in prison.. *Sr. M. Carla Bertaina*



MISSIONARY EXPERIENCES - HOUSEKEEPERS

PALAZZOLO MILANESE - ITALY : For several years Cecilia offered her service to sell the canvas “Batik” from Uganda as support for the Mission carried on by the Dominican sisters. They were beautiful, many coloured subjects on canvas, which, however, to nail it to the wall they needed a frame and this, naturally, implied a somehow high price for those who bought them.

Being an artisan and being her husband (Andrew) a carpenter, Cecilia had a very brilliant idea: that of making a wooden frame (not the usual one) on which she would put the canvas.

She asked Andrew to make one of it and to hang it in her house.

We are friends and I, Luciana, during winter often go to her house because we have agreed to manufacture some clothes with the cloth that she had. I saw the little picture, appreciated it much and spoke of it with my husband, Angelo, proposing to help Andrew to prepare the frames. Angelo was soon enthusiastic and available, and in his turn, he involved Adelio, his recently retired friend.

During a joyful lunch, our husbands constituted the “Firm BI.PI.PA” (Bizzotto-Pisati-Panetti) and on an afternoon started producing 4/5 small frames: Andrew cut the wooden slats, Angelo stuck them, and Adelio pinched the frame on the canvas.

This was a beautiful work and they were satisfied. However, as it is known, men (especially our husbands) always need a feminine support, therefore, they involved us also (Cecilia, Luciana and Antonietta). Some evenings we went together to the magazine of Adelio to make frames and pinching them on the canvas. (See other photos of the canvas. See them: on: www.domenicanecaterina.org).

Very beautiful, many remarks, plenty of laughter and.....toasts.
 The conclusion of all this is that with a little of expenditure and a lot of fun we can do something for those who are much worse than we are.

Naturally, the income goes to support the mission carried on in Uganda by the Dominican Sisters, who are doing a lot of good work at Kakumiro and Namugongo.

Luciana with her company!



S. GIUSTINA IN COLLE – PD: Another summer initiative, added to the winter and spring ones (to support our hospital in Ibadan) is the manufacture of handbags for shopping and for the seashore. Mrs Guentina, a hairdresser, has manufactured many handbags with samples of cloth from Tamai. She has already sold them to her clients, who are happy to participate in works of charity and sure that they reach the end.

He who loves never misses the fantasy.

 The sisters in charge of the Office for the missions thank these collaborators with the mission of the Congregation, confirming the saying of Jesus, “Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me”.

Calendar of the general Curia for July 2010

July 3: The Prioress general receives the final profession of Sr. M. Auxiliadora Pereira in Goiânia (Brazil)

July 4 – 10: The Assistant Sr. M. Juana Segura and Sr. M. Carla Bertaina will visit the community of Kabul

July 7: Sr. M. Laura Restelli will be back in Rome after her stay in Uganda

July 28: Opening of the II Provincial Chapter of “*Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*” Province, in which the Prioress General and Sr. M. Lillian Raphael will be present.



**On behalf of the entire Congregation, the pages of the F. I. formulate for
 Sr. M. Auxiliadora Pereira
 Best Wishes for a happy life in her total self-offering to God and the brothers.**

